

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT[661]

Adopted and Filed

Rule making related to firearm training organizations

The Public Safety Department hereby amends Chapter 91, “Weapons and Iowa Professional Permits to Carry Weapons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rule Making

This rule making is adopted under the authority provided in 2021 Iowa Acts, House File 756, section 20.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, 2021 Iowa Acts, House File 756, sections 19 and 20.

Purpose and Summary

These amendments to Chapter 91 align the Department’s rules for firearm training organizations with 2021 Iowa Acts, House File 756. Under this new law, the Department, not just the National Rifle Association (NRA), may approve firearm training organizations that certify individuals as handgun safety training instructors. These amendments establish the requirements that firearm training organizations must meet in order to receive approval from the Department. These amendments also set forth the procedure for submitting an application for approval as a firearm training organization and the conditions in which a certification of approval may be denied, suspended, or revoked.

Public Comment and Changes to Rule Making

Notice of Intended Action for this rule making was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on June 30, 2021, as **ARC 5735C**. No public comments were received. No changes from the Notice have been made.

Adoption of Rule Making

This rule making was adopted by the Department on September 23, 2021.

Fiscal Impact

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Pursuant to the provisions of rule 661—10.222(17A), the Department does not have authority to waive requirements established by statute. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to the provisions of rule 661—10.222(17A).

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rule making will become effective on November 24, 2021.

The following rule-making actions are adopted:

ITEM 1. Adopt the following new definition of "Approved training organization" in rule **661—91.1(724)**:

"Approved training organization" means any firearm training organization that has satisfied the requirements to certify handgun safety training instructors eligible to offer handgun safety training in Iowa for the purpose of obtaining an Iowa permit to carry weapons and has been approved by the commissioner.

ITEM 2. Amend rule **661—91.1(724)**, definitions of "Firearm training documentation" and "Firearm training program," as follows:

"Firearm training documentation" means a photocopy of a certificate of completion or any similar document indicating completion of any firearm training program course; an affidavit from the instructor, school, organization or group that conducted or taught a firearm training program; a copy of or the display of an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions or Form DD-214 for personnel released or retired from active duty with the armed forces of the United States; or possession of a certificate of completion of basic training with a service record of successful completion of small arms training and qualification for active duty personnel in the armed forces of the United States. ~~For a renewal application, firearm training documentation also includes documentation of qualifying on a firing range under the supervision of an instructor certified by the National Rifle Association or the Iowa law enforcement academy or another state's department of public safety, state police department, or similar certifying body.~~

"Firearm training program" means any National Rifle Association handgun safety training course; any handgun safety training course available to the general public utilizing instructors certified by the National Rifle Association, an organization approved by the Iowa department of public safety pursuant to Iowa Code section 724.9A as enacted by 2021 Iowa Acts, House File 756, section 20, or the Iowa law enforcement academy or another state's department of public safety, state police department, or similar certifying body; any handgun safety training course offered for security guards, investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of a law enforcement or security enforcement agency approved by the Iowa department of public safety; or completion of small arms training while serving with the armed forces of the United States. Any person or entity seeking approval by the Iowa department of public safety for a handgun safety training course offered for security guards, investigators, special deputies, or any division or subdivision of a law enforcement or security enforcement agency, other than those certified by the National Rifle Association, the Iowa department of public safety, or the Iowa law enforcement academy or courses conducted by instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or the Iowa law enforcement academy, shall submit a detailed description of the course content to the commissioner for review. Any handgun safety training course submitted for review shall be reviewed by the commissioner ~~to determine if the course is substantially equivalent to the Iowa law enforcement academy marksmanship qualification course.~~

ITEM 3. Adopt the following new rule 661—91.10(724):

661—91.10(724) Application for approved training organization.

91.10(1) Firearm training organizations seeking approval by the Iowa department of public safety to certify individuals as handgun safety training instructors eligible to offer handgun safety training shall meet the criteria outlined in this rule, such as the years of training experience of the organization's primary point of contact or owner, and shall maintain student records, an active website URL, and the ability of the organization's instructors and primary point of contact or owner to legally possess and carry firearms. A firearm training organization seeking approval shall submit the following:

a. A certificate of existence from the Iowa secretary of state issued within 60 days of application or, if a non-Iowa corporation, a certificate of authority to do business in Iowa.

b. The course syllabi or lesson plans and the goals or objectives for instructor certification courses, which shall show that instructor candidates who successfully complete the courses possess knowledge, competence, and demonstrated proficiency in the area of handgun safety instruction and operation.

c. The course syllabi or lesson plans and the goals or objectives for general student courses, which shall demonstrate that students will receive the basic requirements for a permit to carry a weapon as established by the Iowa department of public safety. The courses shall include:

(1) Instruction in current Iowa laws related to use of deadly force, reasonable force, defense of home, and defense of property;

(2) Instruction in basic handgun safety, safe handling, safe storage, and safe cleaning; and

(3) Instruction in handgun nomenclature and the operation of pistols and revolvers.

d. A copy of the certificate to be issued by the organization to instructors who complete the program.

e. A copy of the résumé and firearm-related training credentials of the individual serving as the organization's primary point of contact or owner, which shall demonstrate a minimum of five years of cumulative experience as a firearm instructor. This experience shall include firearm instructor duties related to military service or firearm instructor certification by the National Rifle Association or by an organization approved by the Iowa department of public safety pursuant to Iowa Code section 724.9A as enacted by 2021 Iowa Acts, House File 756, section 20, or by the Iowa law enforcement academy or another state's department of public safety, state police department, or similar certifying body.

f. A written description of how the organization will maintain instructor records.

g. A written description of how the organization will maintain proficiency of instruction, including staying abreast of statutory changes that may affect what is being taught, and will ensure the instructional practices and integrity of instructors.

h. The URL of a website containing a list of certified instructors or an electronic application that allows users to search and validate instructor credentials.

i. An application processing fee of \$500 (the certification of approval is valid for five years).

91.10(2) A firearm training organization seeking to renew its certification of approval must submit:

a. Current lesson plans or course syllabi and course goals or objectives.

b. A certificate of existence from the Iowa secretary of state issued within 60 days of application or, if a non-Iowa corporation, a certificate of authority to do business in Iowa.

c. A copy of the updated credentials of the organization's primary point of contact or owner (submit all documentation demonstrating qualification to provide oversight of firearm training instructors). These credentials must include a minimum of five years of verifiable firearm instructor experience.

d. An application processing fee of \$500 (the certification of approval is valid for five years).

91.10(3) The Iowa department of public safety may deny, suspend, or revoke the certification of approval of a firearm training organization if the department has reason to believe that the organization or its primary point of contact or owner has:

a. Become ineligible to possess a firearm under Iowa Code chapter 724 or federal law;

b. Knowingly and willfully provided false information to the department;

c. Provided instruction contrary to the established and approved curriculum; or

d. Failed to meet any portion of the instructor certification guidelines as originally approved.

91.10(4) An applicant for certification as a firearm training organization or a certified firearm permit-to-carry instructor has the same appeal rights as set forth in rule 661—91.7(724).

ITEM 4. Amend ~~661~~—**Chapter 91**, implementation sentence, as follows:
These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 724 as amended by ~~2010 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2357 and Senate File 2379~~ 2021 Iowa Acts, House File 756.

[Filed 9/23/21, effective 11/24/21]

[Published 10/20/21]

EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 10/20/21.